



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2010-0029]

### Amtrak's Request to Amend Its Positive Train Control Safety Plan and Positive Train Control System

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides the public with notice that, on July 14, 2023, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) submitted two requests for amendment (RFA). The first RFA is to Amtrak's FRA-approved Positive Train Control Safety Plan (PTCSP) and its Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System II (ACSES II), which seeks FRA's approval to introduce modified safety server software to address a known defect and updates to type approval documentation. The second RFA is to Amtrak's FRA-certified positive train control (PTC) system for its ACSES II system, which seeks FRA's approval to install Construction Zone (CZ) transponders to support cutover activities on the Philadelphia to Washington (PW) line. As these RFAs may involve requests for FRA's approval of proposed material modifications to an FRA-certified PTC system, FRA is publishing this notice and inviting public comment on Amtrak's RFAs to its PTCSP and PTC system.

**DATES:** FRA will consider comments received by [INSERT DATE 20 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. FRA may consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable and without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system.

**ADDRESSES:** *Comments:* Comments may be submitted by going to

<https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and the applicable docket number. The relevant PTC docket number for this host railroad is Docket No. FRA-2010-0029. For convenience, all active PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/research-development/program-areas/train-control/ptc/railroads-ptc-dockets>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gabe Neal, Staff Director, Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 816-516-7168, e-mail:

[Gabe.Neal@dot.gov](mailto:Gabe.Neal@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In general, Title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 20157(h) requires FRA to certify that a host railroad's PTC system complies with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 236, subpart I, before the technology may be operated in revenue service. Before making certain changes to an FRA-certified PTC system or the associated FRA-approved PTCSP, a host railroad must submit, and obtain FRA's approval of, an RFA to its PTCSP under 49 CFR 236.1021.

Under 49 CFR 236.1021(e), FRA's regulations provide that FRA will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* and invite public comment in accordance with 49 CFR part 211, if an RFA includes a request for approval of a material modification or discontinuance of a signal and train control system. Accordingly, this notice informs the public that, on July 14, 2023, Amtrak submitted an RFA to its PTCSP and ACSES II PTC system, which seeks FRA's approval to introduce modified safety server software to address a known defect and updates to type approval documentation, and an RFA to its FRA-certified PTC system for its ACSES II system, which seeks FRA's approval to

install CZ transponders to support cutover activities on the Philadelphia to Washington line. These RFAs are both available in Docket No. FRA-2010-0029.

Interested parties are invited to comment on Amtrak's RFAs to its PTCSP and PTC system by submitting written comments or data. During FRA's review of Amtrak's RFAs, FRA will consider any comments or data submitted within the timeline specified in this notice and to the extent practicable, without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system. *See* 49 CFR 236.1021; *see also* 49 CFR 236.1011(e). Under 49 CFR 236.1021, FRA maintains the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a railroad's RFA to its PTCSP at FRA's sole discretion.

#### *Privacy Act Notice*

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.3, FRA solicits comments from the public to better inform its decisions. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. *See* <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov. To facilitate comment tracking, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact FRA for alternate submission instructions.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Carolyn R. Hayward-Williams,**

*Director, Office of Railroad Systems and Technology.*

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